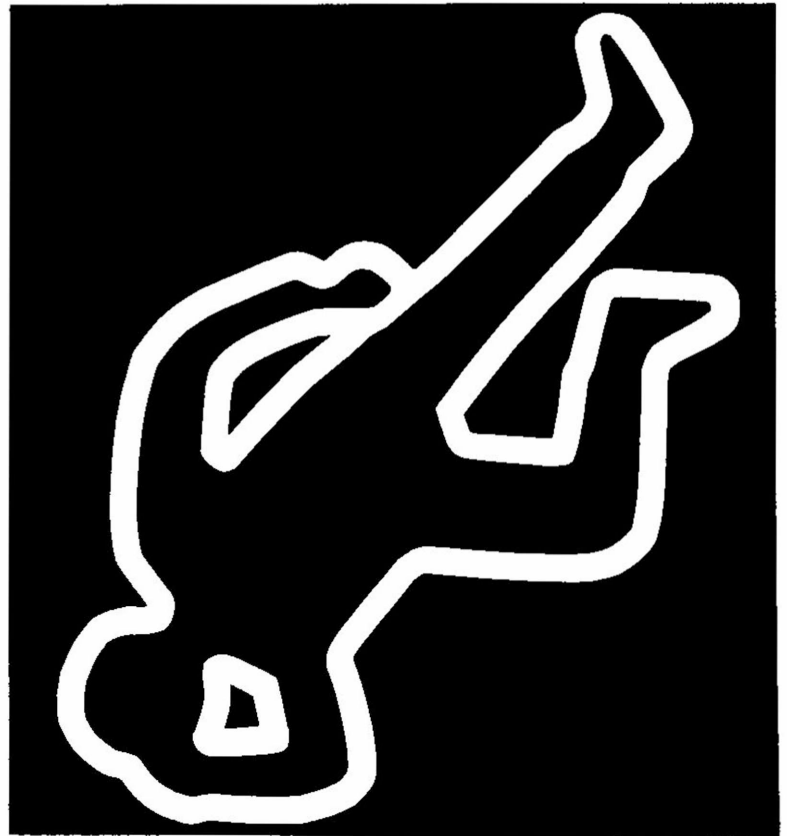


SUMMARY: 1970-78

Issued: September 1983

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
HOMICIDE
SURVEILLANCE



ence Epidemiology Branch
ter for Health Promotion and Education

Centers for Disease Control
homicide surveillance

PREFACE

This report analyzes mortality data from the National Center for Health Statistics on victims of homicide between 1970 and 1978. It is intended for use by clinicians, health planners and evaluators, and other public health professionals interested in the numbers and characteristics of homicide victims.

SUGGESTED CITATION:

Centers for Disease Control: Homicide Surveillance, 1970-78
Issued September 1983

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I. SUMMARY

Compared with other causes of death in the United States in 1978, homicide ranked fourth in regard to the potential years of life lost to victims between the ages of 1 and 64 (1).

From 1970 to 1978, 178,467 homicide deaths were reported to the National Center for Health Statistics by the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The number of homicides increased steadily from 16,848 in 1970 to 21,465 in 1974, and then moved back down to 20,432 in 1978. The homicide rate followed a similar pattern, increasing from 8.3 per 100,000 population in 1970 to 10.2 in 1974 and fluctuating back down to 9.4 in 1978.

Victims of homicide were disproportionately represented by young people, males, and racial minorities. In 1978, 55% of homicide victims were between the ages of 15 and 34, while only 35% of the U.S. population was in this age category. During this 9-year period, 78% of all homicide victims were male. Members of black and other races constituted a disproportionate number of homicide victims. In 1978, the age-adjusted rate for blacks and other races was approximately 5.6 times higher than the rate for whites.

Between 1970 and 1978, the rate of homicide for blacks and other races decreased from 41.3 per 100,000 to 33.4, while the homicide rate for whites increased from 4.7 to 6.0. Despite an almost 20% decrease in the homicide rate for persons of black and other races, minorities still remain at much higher risk than whites for death from homicide.

Homicides occurred more frequently in the South than in other regions of the country. In 1978, 7 of the 10 States with the highest homicide rates were in the South. Of the 25 most populous Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) in 1970, 15 had a homicide rate in 1978 that was above the national average of 9.4 per 100,000 population.

Firearms and explosives,* were the weapons most commonly used in homicide. In 1978, 67% of all homicides were committed with firearms; 17% were committed with cutting or piercing instruments.

Deaths from homicide were slightly more likely to occur during the summer and fall than during the winter and spring. Most homicides occurred on weekends.

*Although the official ICDA-8 category is "firearms and explosives," explosives are responsible for only a very small percentage of homicide deaths. In 1979, 11 or 0.05% of all homicides were committed by means of explosives. Therefore, for the remainder of this report this category will be referred to as "firearms" only.

II. INTRODUCTION

Homicide is a major cause of death in the United States. The Center for Health Promotion and Education, Centers for Disease Control is reporting information on the numbers and characteristics of homicide victims in an effort to develop public health interventions that might prevent deaths from homicide in the future.

This report documents the numbers and characteristics of homicide victims and analyzes changes that occurred between 1970 and 1978 in the distribution of the numbers and characteristics of homicide victims.

III. SURVEILLANCE METHODS

This report is based on mortality data compiled by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). These data are based on death-certificate information that NCHS receives from the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Deaths of nonresident aliens and U.S. citizens living abroad are not included. Population data used to calculate rates came from the P-25 series of the Current Population Reports compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Age-adjusted homicide rates are used frequently in this report for comparisons over time and between population categories because of the sensitivity of homicide rates to the age structure of a population. These rates were computed by the direct method of standardization using the 1940 U.S. population as the standard.

The death-certificate category "homicide" includes deaths from injuries purposely inflicted by other persons (ICDA-8, codes E960-E969), deaths from injuries resulting from interventions by law enforcement officers (ICDA-8, codes E970-E977), and deaths caused by legal execution (ICDA-8, code E978).

Trends in homicide rates presented in this report for years prior to 1933 must be interpreted with caution. It was not until 1933 that all 48 States and the District of Columbia (D.C.) had systems for the official registration of deaths. The death registration area consisted of 10 States and D.C. in 1900, 20 States and D.C. in 1910 (50% of the U.S. population), 34 States and D.C. in 1920 (80% of the U.S. population), and all 48 States and D.C. in 1933. Upon statehood, Alaska and Hawaii were included (2).

IV. NUMBERS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS

A. Numbers and Rates (Tables 1 and 2)

From 1970 to 1978, 178,467 homicide deaths occurred among U.S. citizens living within the U.S. The number fluctuated each year from a low of 16,848 in 1970, to a high of 21,465 in 1974, and back down to 20,432 homicides in 1978. The homicide rate has fluctuated similarly, rising from a low of 8.3 per 100,000 population in 1970, to a high of 10.2 in 1974, and back down to 9.4 in 1978.

During the 1970's, both crude and age-adjusted homicide rates reached their highest levels of the century (see figure 1). Homicide rates were also unusually high during the 1930's.

B. Sex (Tables 1 and 2)

Between 1970 and 1978, 78% of homicide victims were male. This percentage remained virtually unchanged during this time period. The age-adjusted homicide rate for males ranged from a low of 14.9 per 100,000 population in 1970 to a high of 17.3 in 1974, and back down to 15.3 in 1978. The age-adjusted rate for females ranged from a low of 3.7 in 1970 to a high of 4.6 in 1974, and back down to 4.2 in 1978.

C. Age (Tables 3 and 4)

Victims of homicide were usually young. In 1978, 55% of homicide victims were between the ages of 15 and 34 while only 35% of the U.S. population was in this age category.

Age-specific homicide rates were fairly consistent between 1970 and 1978. Age-specific rates were lowest among 5- to 9-year olds and peaked in the 25- to 29-year old age category. After age 29, these rates decline steadily with increasing age. The shapes of the age-specific homicide curves are much the same for males and females until they reach age 10, after which age-specific homicide rates for males remain consistently higher (see figure 2).

D. Race (Tables 5 and 6)

Blacks and other minorities were at much higher risk for death from homicide than whites. Blacks and other races made up 50% of homicide victims during this time period, but constituted only 13% of the total population.

The racial profile of homicide victims changed considerably from 1970 to 1978. In 1970, 7,803 (46%) victims were white and 9,045 (54%) were black or of other races; in 1978, 11,200 (55%) victims were white and 9,232 (45%) were black or of other races. The increase in the percentage of white victims from 1970 to 1978 occurred among both males and females.

Age-adjusted homicide rates for blacks and other minorities decreased from 41.3 per 100,000 to 33.4, while the rates for whites increased from 4.7 to 6.0. Despite these changes, in 1978, minorities were still 5.6 times more likely to die of homicide than whites. The risk for minority males was 6.3 relative to the risk for white males, while the risk for minority females was 4.2 times that for white females.

E. State of Occurrence (Table 7)

In 1978, homicide rates in the 50 States ranged from 1.3 per 100,000 in New Hampshire to 17.1 per 100,000 in Louisiana. The largest numbers of homicides were recorded in California (2,665), Texas (1,975), and New York (1,874).

The distribution of homicide rates varied among the four major geographic regions of the United States. Seven of the ten States with

the highest homicide rates were in the South, while all ten of the States with the lowest homicide rates were in the northeast and north-central regions. Overall, there was a north-south gradient, with the highest homicide rates occurring in a southern band of States from California on the west coast to North and South Carolina on the east coast (see figure 4).

F. County of Occurrence (Table 8)

In 1978, 86% of homicide victims died in the county in which they lived. Eighteen percent of white victims died outside their county of residence, as compared with 10% of victims who were black or of other races. Fifteen percent of male victims died outside their county of residence, as compared with 12% of female victims.

G. Urban Patterns (Table 9)

Of the 25 largest SMSA's in 1970, Atlanta, Georgia, had the highest homicide rate (23.2 per 100,000 population) and the Anaheim-Santa Ana-Garden Grove, California, SMSA had the lowest (2.9 per 100,000 population). In 1978, the Houston, Texas, SMSA had the highest rate (23.7 per 100,000 population), while the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, SMSA had the lowest (3.2 per 100,000 population).

H. Weapons (Table 10)

In 1978, 67% of homicides were committed with firearms, 17% were committed with cutting or piercing instruments, and 16% were by other or unspecified means. These proportions did not change substantially from 1970, when 69% of homicides were committed with firearms. The weapons used varied with the sex of the victims. In 1978 (as in 1970), men were more likely than women to be victims of firearms (71% vs. 52%) and less likely to be killed by other and unspecified means (12% vs. 31%). The proportion of males and females killed with cutting or piercing instruments was the same (17%).

I. Month of Occurrence (Table 11)

For 1970 to 1978, there appears to be a seasonal trend in the occurrence of homicide (see figure 5). Deaths from homicide were slightly more likely to occur during July through December than during January through June. There is also a daily trend in the occurrence of homicide, with the great majority of homicides occurring on weekends (2).

J. Homicide Compared with Other Causes of Death (Table 12)

In terms of absolute number of deaths, homicide was the 12th leading cause of death in the United States in 1978 (3). However, in 1978, homicide was the fourth leading cause of potential years of life lost to people between ages 1 and 64, ranking after unintentional injuries, cancer, and heart disease (1). This result underscores the considerable impact that homicide has on premature loss of life in the United States.

V. DISCUSSION

Between 1970 and 1978 in the United States, homicide took its greatest toll among minorities, males and the young. While the total number of homicides showed only a moderate increase during this time period, the proportion and rate of homicides decreased among blacks and other races, and increased among whites. Despite this change in racial distribution, blacks and other minorities still remained at higher risk for death from homicide.

The listing of homicide as the cause of death on a death certificate is neither a legal decision nor a medical diagnosis. Rather, the classification of a death as a homicide depends upon the professional opinion of the physician, coroner, or medical examiner responsible for completing the death certificate. This opinion represents judgments about a) the circumstances surrounding the death (e.g., whether it was intentionally self-inflicted, accidental, or caused by someone else) and b) the immediate cause of death. These judgments are believed to be relatively reliable since deaths in which homicide is suspected are investigated quite thoroughly. In fact, in 1977 an autopsy was performed on 91% of all homicide victims, while only 16% of those who died from causes other than homicide had an autopsy performed (4). However, even if suspicions of homicide are later determined to be unwarranted, the death certificate is seldom amended. There is no uniform procedure in the United States for amending what may turn out to be incorrect information on a death certificate. Finally, since any biases in the enumeration of homicide deaths due to the judgments of certifying officials have probably operated systematically from 1970 to 1978, the trends revealed in these data should be accurate.

A sole reliance on death-certificate data severely limits our ability to describe patterns of homicide victimization and ascertain risk factors. First, death certificates provide no direct means of classifying homicide victims by their socioeconomic status. Since race and socioeconomic status are so closely linked in the United States, the victims' socioeconomic status must be established and controlled for in order to judge the importance of race as a risk factor. Second, the absence of information on the circumstances of the homicide and the victim/offender relationship makes it impossible to classify homicide by its types (e.g., whether committed in the course of another crime, or whether committed by a family member). The age, race, and sex distributions of homicide victims are likely to differ substantially by the type of homicide. Third, death-certificate data contain no information on the perpetrators of homicide. In addition to data on homicide victims, detailed data on the perpetrators are needed to develop appropriate public health interventions.

In addition to data derived from death certificates, a second primary source of information is provided by the U.S. Department of Justice through the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports (5). The Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) provide a nationwide view

of crime on the basis of State and local police statistics. The inclusion of information on the victim/offender relationship; the age, race, and sex of the offender(s); and the circumstances of or motives for the homicide make UCR data a valuable complement to NCHS data for the description of patterns of homicide victimization and perpetration.

We are just beginning to describe patterns of homicide victimization. Future research should be directed at advancing the understanding of those factors that place certain population groups at greater risk for death from homicide than others. Those aspects of the environment and lifestyles of minorities, males, and the young that place them at greater risk should be a primary focus. Such inquiries will provide a basis for the development of programs to protect potential victims of violence.

The magnitude of the public health problem presented by homicide is most clearly indicated by its significant contribution to premature mortality in the United States. A problem of this magnitude demands attention and cooperation: criminal justice researchers, law enforcement agencies, social service agencies, and public health concerns must work together to foster productive research on this important problem. We believe that the wealth of experience and knowledge that public health professionals have gained in their efforts to address other public health problems can contribute to the development of creative solutions to the problem that violence poses to many communities across this country.

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5. US Department of Justice. Federal Bureau of Investigation-Uniform Crime Reports for the United States, 1978. Washington, DC, US Department of Justice, 1978.

TABLE 1.--Numbers and percents of homicides by sex of victim,
United States, 1970-78

<u>Year</u>	Male		Female		Total	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1970	13,278	78.8	3,570	21.2	16,848	100.0
1971	14,812	78.8	3,975	21.2	18,787	100.0
1972	15,642	79.7	3,996	20.3	19,638	100.0
1973	15,840	77.4	4,625	22.6	20,465	100.0
1974	16,747	78.0	4,718	22.0	21,465	100.0
1975	16,553	77.7	4,757	22.3	21,310	100.0
1976	15,142	77.4	4,412	22.6	19,554	100.0
1977	15,355	76.9	4,613	23.1	19,968	100.0
<u>1978</u>	<u>15,838</u>	<u>77.5</u>	<u>4,594</u>	<u>22.5</u>	<u>20,432</u>	<u>100.0</u>
1970-78	139,207	78.0	39,260	22.0	178,467	100.0

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 7-14 (table 1-26).

Source 15 (table 10).

TABLE 2.--Homicide rates by sex of victim,
United States, 1970-78

<u>Year</u>	Unadjusted Rate ^a	Age-adjusted Rate ^b		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1970	8.3	9.1	14.9	3.7
1971	9.1	10.0	16.3	4.0
1972	9.4	10.3	16.8	4.0
1973	9.8	10.5	16.7	4.5
1974	10.2	10.8	17.3	4.6
1975	10.0	10.5	16.8	4.5
1976	9.1	9.5	15.1	4.1
1977	9.2	9.6	15.1	4.2
1978	9.4	9.6	15.3	4.2

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 7-14 (tables 1-5 and 1-6).

Source 15 (table 11).

^aRate per 100,000 population

^bAge-adjusted rates per 100,000 population computed by the direct method of standardization using the total population for 1940 as the standard population

TABLE 3.--Numbers of homicides by age and sex of victim,
United States, 1970 and 1978

Age Group	Total				Male				Female			
	1970		1978		1970		1978		1970		1978	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Under 1	150	0.9	161	0.8	80	0.6	82	0.5	70	2.0	79	1.7
1- 4	258	1.5	313	1.5	130	1.0	172	1.1	128	3.6	141	3.1
5- 9	116	0.7	170	0.8	61	0.5	90	0.6	55	1.5	80	1.7
10-14	244	1.4	284	1.4	154	1.2	161	1.0	90	2.5	123	2.7
15-19	1,536	9.1	1,868	9.1	1,233	9.3	1,397	8.8	303	8.5	471	10.3
20-24	2,621	15.6	3,575	17.5	2,100	15.8	2,830	17.9	521	14.6	745	16.2
25-29	2,293	13.6	3,304	16.2	1,860	14.0	2,674	16.9	433	12.1	630	13.7
30-34	1,847	11.0	2,417	11.8	1,517	11.4	1,961	12.4	330	9.2	456	9.9
35-39	1,630	9.7	1,887	9.2	1,290	9.7	1,525	9.6	340	9.5	362	7.9
40-44	1,533	9.1	1,519	7.4	1,199	9.0	1,209	7.6	334	9.4	310	6.7
45-49	1,317	7.8	1,210	5.9	1,062	8.0	979	6.2	255	7.1	231	5.0
50-54	1,028	6.1	1,097	5.4	844	6.4	880	5.6	184	5.2	217	4.7
55-59	754	4.5	790	3.9	616	4.6	626	4.0	138	3.9	164	3.6
60-64	567	3.4	599	2.9	457	3.4	474	3.0	110	3.1	125	2.7
65-69	382	2.3	435	2.1	294	2.2	321	2.0	88	2.5	114	2.5
70-74	237	1.4	310	1.5	174	1.3	195	1.2	63	1.8	115	2.5
75-79	139	0.8	196	1.0	85	0.6	105	0.7	54	1.5	91	2.0
80-84	106	0.6	128	0.6	62	0.5	59	0.4	44	1.2	69	1.5
85+	64	0.4	98	0.5	40	0.3	45	0.3	24	0.7	53	1.2
Age Not												
Stated	26	0.2	71	0.3	20	0.2	53	0.3	6	0.2	18	0.4
All Ages	16,848	100.0	20,432	100.0	13,278	100.0	15,838	100.0	3,570	100.0	4,594	100.0

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Source 7 (table 1-26).

Source 16.

TABLE 4.--Homicide rates by age and sex of victim,
United States, 1970 and 1978

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1978</u>
Under 1	4.3	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.1	5.1
1- 4	1.9	2.6	1.9	2.8	1.9	2.4
5- 9	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.0
10-14	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.7	0.9	1.4
15-19	8.1	8.9	12.8	13.1	3.2	4.5
20-24	16.0	17.6	26.5	28.0	6.2	7.3
25-29	17.0	18.4	28.1	30.1	6.3	7.0
30-34	16.2	15.2	27.1	25.0	5.7	5.7
35-39	14.7	14.5	23.8	24.0	6.0	5.4
40-44	12.8	13.4	20.6	22.0	5.4	5.3
45-49	10.9	10.6	18.1	17.7	4.1	4.0
50-54	9.3	9.3	15.8	15.4	3.2	3.5
55-59	7.6	7.0	12.9	11.7	2.7	2.8
60-64	6.6	6.3	11.3	10.7	2.4	2.5
65-69	5.5	5.1	9.4	8.4	2.3	2.4
70-74	4.4	4.9	7.5	7.3	2.0	3.1
75-79	3.6	4.7	5.4	6.4	2.4	3.6
80-84	4.6	4.7	7.1	6.1	3.1	3.9
85+	4.2	4.4	7.4	6.5	2.5	3.5
Total ^a	8.3	9.4	13.4	14.9	3.4	4.1

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Source 7 (table 1-8).

Sources 4, 16.

NOTE: Homicide rates reflect number of homicides committed per 100,000 population.

^aData for "Age Not Stated" are included in the total, but are not distributed among the age groups

TABLE 5.--Numbers of homicides by race and sex of victim,
United States, 1970-78

<u>White</u>						
	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1970	5,865	75.2	1,938	24.8	7,803	100.0
1971	6,455	75.4	2,106	24.6	8,561	100.0
1972	6,820	76.0	2,156	24.0	8,976	100.0
1973	7,411	74.2	2,575	25.8	9,986	100.0
1974	7,992	75.1	2,656	24.9	10,648	100.0
1975	8,222	74.9	2,751	25.1	10,973	100.0
1976	7,568	74.8	2,547	25.2	10,115	100.0
1977	7,951	74.0	2,787	26.0	10,738	100.0
1978	8,429	75.3	2,771	24.7	11,200	100.0
1970-78	66,713	75.0	22,287	25.0	89,000	100.0

<u>Black and Other</u>						
	<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
1970	7,413	82.0	1,632	18.0	9,045	100.0
1971	8,357	81.7	1,869	18.3	10,226	100.0
1972	8,822	82.7	1,840	17.3	10,662	100.0
1973	8,429	80.4	2,050	19.6	10,479	100.0
1974	8,755	80.9	2,062	19.1	10,817	100.0
1975	8,331	80.6	2,006	19.4	10,337	100.0
1976	7,574	80.2	1,865	19.8	9,439	100.0
1977	7,404	80.2	1,826	19.8	9,230	100.0
1978	7,409	80.3	1,823	19.7	9,232	100.0
1970-78	72,494	81.0	16,973	19.0	89,467	100.0

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 7-14 (table 1-26).

Source 15 (table 10).

TABLE 6.--Homicide rates by race and sex of victim,
United States, 1970-78

<u>Year</u>	<u>White</u>			<u>Black and Other</u>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1970	4.7	7.3	2.2	41.3	72.8	13.7
1971	5.1	7.9	2.3	46.8	81.6	16.0
1972	5.2	8.2	2.4	46.6	83.1	14.8
1973	5.7	8.7	2.8	44.4	77.1	16.0
1974	6.0	9.3	2.9	44.5	77.9	15.5
1975	6.1	9.4	2.9	41.1	71.6	14.7
1976	5.5	8.6	2.7	36.4	63.3	13.2
1977	5.9	8.8	2.9	34.5	60.1	12.5
1978	6.0	9.2	2.9	33.4	58.1	12.1

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 7-14 (table 1-6).

Source 15 (table 11).

NOTE: Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 population computed by the direct method of standardization using the total population for 1940 as the standard population.

TABLE 7.--Numbers and rates of homicides
by State and geographic region of occurrence,
United States, 1978

Area	Number	Rate ^a	Area	Number	Rate ^a
United States	20,432	9.4			
Northeast:	3,400	6.9	South:	8,777	12.4
Connecticut	128	4.1	Alabama	502	13.5
Maine	32	2.9	Arkansas	209	9.6
Massachusetts	202	3.5	D.C.	191	28.5
New Jersey	366	5.0	Delaware	45	7.7
New Hampshire	11	1.3	Florida	1,036	12.0
New York	1,874	10.6	Georgia	776	15.3
Pennsylvania	727	6.2	Kentucky	305	8.7
Rhode Island	41	4.4	Louisiana	682	17.1
Vermont	19	3.9	Maryland	346	8.3
			Mississippi	306	12.7
North Central:	4,263	7.3	North Carolina	662	11.9
Illinois	1,269	11.3	Oklahoma	288	10.1
Indiana	337	6.3	South Carolina	349	12.0
Iowa	78	2.7	Tennessee	475	11.0
Kansas	131	5.6	Texas	1,975	15.1
Michigan	917	10.0	Virginia	477	9.2
Minnesota	88	2.2	West Virginia	153	8.2
Missouri	520	10.7			
Nebraska	45	2.9	West:	3,992	9.9
North Dakota	15	2.3	Alaska	60	14.6
Ohio	717	6.7	Arizona	262	11.0
South Dakota	24	3.5	California	2,665	11.9
Wisconsin	122	2.6	Colorado	180	6.7
			Hawaii	61	6.8
			Idaho	44	5.0
			Montana	34	4.4
			New Mexico	172	14.2
			Nevada	100	15.0
			Oregon	125	5.1
			Utah	66	5.0
			Washington	194	5.1
			Wyoming	29	6.8

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.
Sources 1-3, 16.

^aPer 100,000 population

TABLE 8.--County in which homicide occurred vs. victim's county of residence
by sex and race of victim,
United States, 1978

Sex and Race of Victim	Within County of Victim's Residence	Outside County of Victim's Residence	Total
	No. (%)	No. (%)	No. (%)
White Males	6,797 (80.6)	1,632 (19.4)	8,429 (100.0)
White Females	2,340 (84.4)	431 (15.6)	2,771 (100.0)
Black and Other Males	6,639 (89.6)	770 (10.4)	7,409 (100.0)
Black and Other Females	1,685 (92.4)	138 (7.6)	1,823 (100.0)
Total	17,461 (85.5)	2,971 (14.5)	20,432 (100.0)

SOURCE:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Source 16.

TABLE 9.--Numbers and rates of homicides
for the 25 most populous Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas,
United States, 1970 and 1978

SMSA	1970		1978	
	No.	Rate ^a	No.	Rate ^a
New York, NY	1,250	10.8	1,662	15.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	693	9.8	1,323	18.7
Chicago, IL	947	13.6	1,045	14.9
Philadelphia, PA	481	10.0	496	10.4
Detroit, MI	669	15.9	687	16.8
Boston, MA	130	3.9	143	4.3
San Francisco-Oakland, CA	238	7.7	312	9.8
Washington, DC	314	11.0	299	10.2
Pittsburgh, PA	106	4.4	124	5.4
St. Louis, MO-IL	350	14.8	393	16.8
Baltimore, MD	276	13.3	258	12.0
Cleveland, OH	316	15.3	273	14.1
Houston, TX	375	18.9	610	23.7
Newark, NJ	190	10.2	170	9.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	54	3.0	59	3.2
Dallas, TX	298	19.1	319	17.7
Seattle-Everett, WA	83	5.8	97	6.6
Anaheim-Santa Ana-Garden Grove, CA	41	2.9	81	4.4
Milwaukee, WI	66	4.7	64	4.5
Atlanta, GA	322	23.2	234	15.1
Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN	102	7.4	113	8.1
Paterson-Clifton-Passaic, NJ	44	3.2	55	4.2
San Diego, CA	61	4.5	121	6.9
Buffalo, NY	71	5.3	65	5.0
Miami, FL	246	19.4	251	17.3

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 4, 6, 16.

NOTE: Table lists in order the 25 SMSA's, based on population size in 1970.

^aPer 100,000 population

TABLE 10.--Numbers and percents of homicides by weapon and sex of victim,
United States, 1970 and 1978

Weapon	<u>Number</u>					
	<u>Total</u>		<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978
Firearms and Explosives ^a	11,542	13,645	9,533	11,249	2,009	2,396
Cutting and Piercing Instruments ^b	2,780	3,512	2,229	2,729	551	783
Other and Unspecified ^c	2,526	3,275	1,516	1,860	1,010	1,415
TOTAL	16,848	20,432	13,278	15,838	3,570	4,594

Weapon	<u>Percent</u>					
	<u>Total</u>		<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	1970	1978	1970	1978	1970	1978
Firearms and Explosives	68.5	66.8	71.8	71.0	56.3	52.2
Cutting and Piercing Instruments	16.5	17.2	16.8	17.2	15.4	17.0
Other and Unspecified	15.0	16.0	11.4	11.7	28.3	30.8
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Source 7 (table 1-23).

Source 16.

^aICDA-8 Codes E965, E970, E971

^bICDA-8 Codes E966, E974

^cICDA-8 Codes E960-E964, E967-E969, E972, E973, E975-E978

TABLE 11.--Numbers of homicides by month, United States, 1970-78

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	TOTAL	PERCENT
January	1,318	1,494	1,572	1,650	1,768	1,898	1,635	1,584	1,590	14,509	8.1
February	1,229	1,406	1,380	1,509	1,506	1,693	1,614	1,533	1,534	13,404	7.5
March	1,327	1,511	1,524	1,768	1,790	1,865	1,481	1,581	1,651	14,498	8.1
April	1,259	1,433	1,466	1,635	1,590	1,697	1,528	1,630	1,575	13,813	7.7
May	1,424	1,535	1,552	1,639	1,489	1,752	1,610	1,651	1,631	14,283	8.0
June	1,399	1,554	1,582	1,682	1,730	1,768	1,583	1,471	1,656	14,425	8.1
July	1,475	1,669	1,836	1,856	1,842	1,811	1,850	1,822	1,740	15,901	8.9
August	1,559	1,627	1,830	1,746	1,954	1,854	1,693	1,754	1,796	15,813	8.9
September	1,417	1,623	1,890	1,727	1,852	1,808	1,617	1,741	1,827	15,502	8.7
October	1,507	1,626	1,614	1,688	1,915	1,748	1,693	1,743	1,686	15,220	8.5
November	1,400	1,515	1,584	1,711	1,995	1,685	1,560	1,646	1,716	14,812	8.3
December	1,534	1,794	1,808	1,854	2,034	1,731	1,690	1,812	2,030	16,287	9.1
TOTAL	16,848	18,787	19,638	20,465	21,465	21,310	19,554	19,968	20,432	178,467	100.0

SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 7-14 (table 1-24).

Source 16.

TABLE 12.--Ten leading causes of death by years of potential life lost
ages 1 through 64, United States, 1978

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Total Years Lost</u>	<u>Percent</u> ^a
Accidents	2,721,908	27.8
Malignant Neoplasms	1,731,905	17.7
Diseases of the Heart	1,571,993	16.1
Homicide	615,591	6.3
Suicide	608,687	6.2
Cirrhosis of the Liver	287,057	2.9
Cerebrovascular Diseases	286,995	2.9
Influenza and Pneumonia	171,583	1.8
Congenital Anomalies	158,766	1.6
Diabetes Mellitus	107,915	1.1

SOURCE:

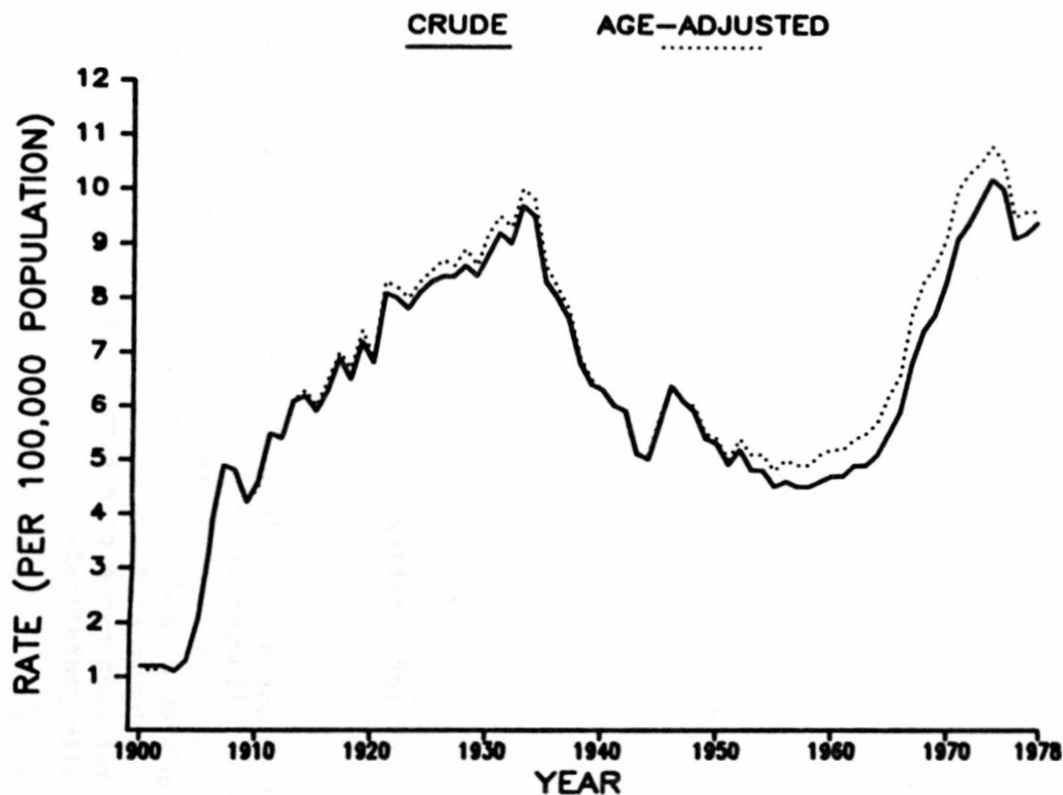
See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Source 5.

NOTE: Years of potential life lost is an indicator of premature mortality determined by the following procedure: The average number of life years lost is calculated for each cause in each group by subtracting the mid-point of the age group from 65 and multiplying that value by the number of cause-specific deaths in each age group. The results are then summed over all age groups for each cause to determine the total number of cause-specific life years lost.

^aOf potential years of life lost.

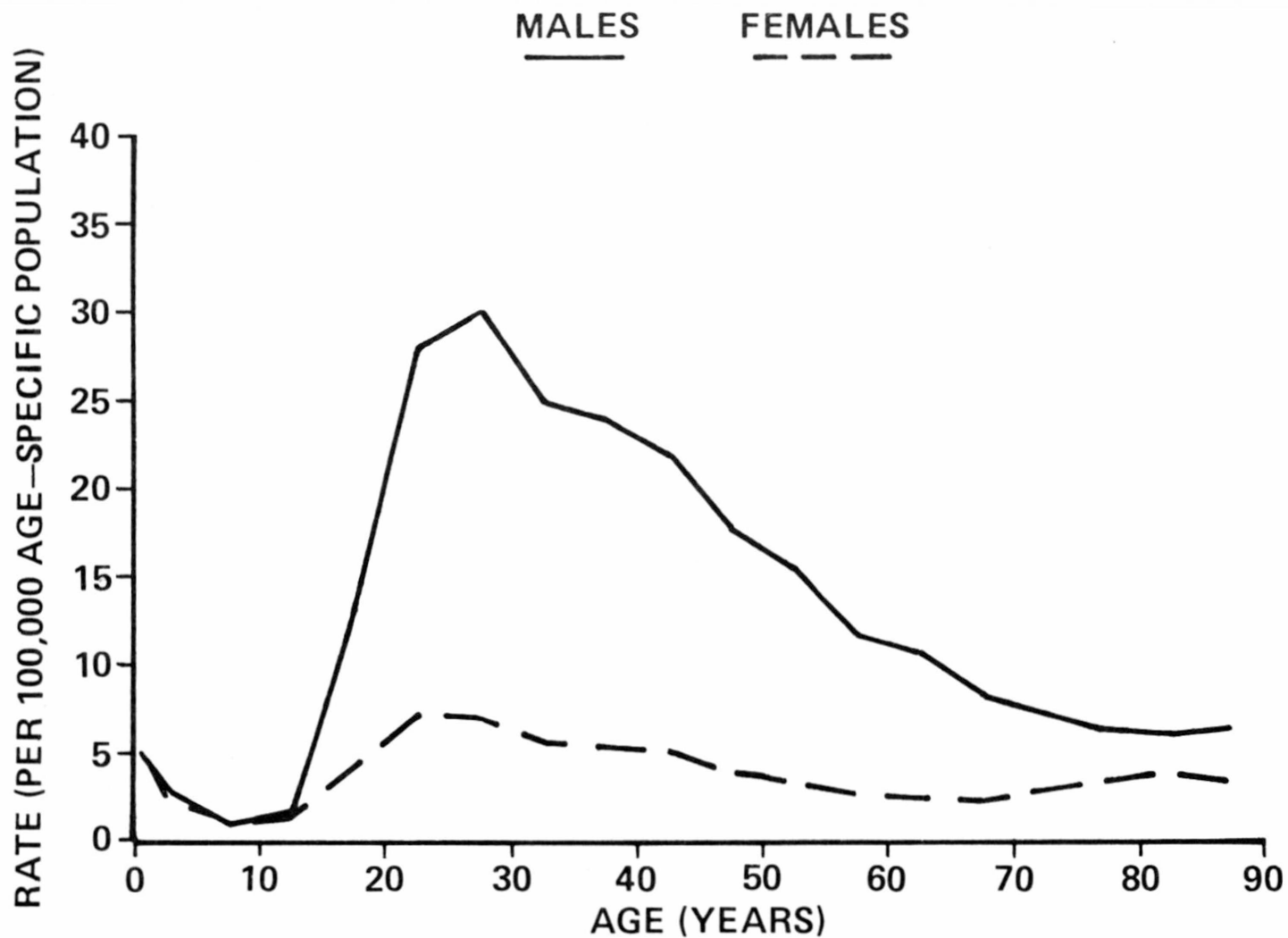
Fig. 1. Crude and age-adjusted homicide rates,
United States, 1900-1978



SOURCE:
See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.
Source 17.

NOTE: The Death-Registration Area consisted of 10 States and D.C. in 1900, 20 States and D.C. in 1910 (50% of the U.S. population), 34 States and D.C. in 1920 (80% of the population) and all 48 States and D.C. in 1933. Upon Statehood Alaska and Hawaii were included.

Fig. 2. Homicide rates by age and sex of victim,
United States, 1978

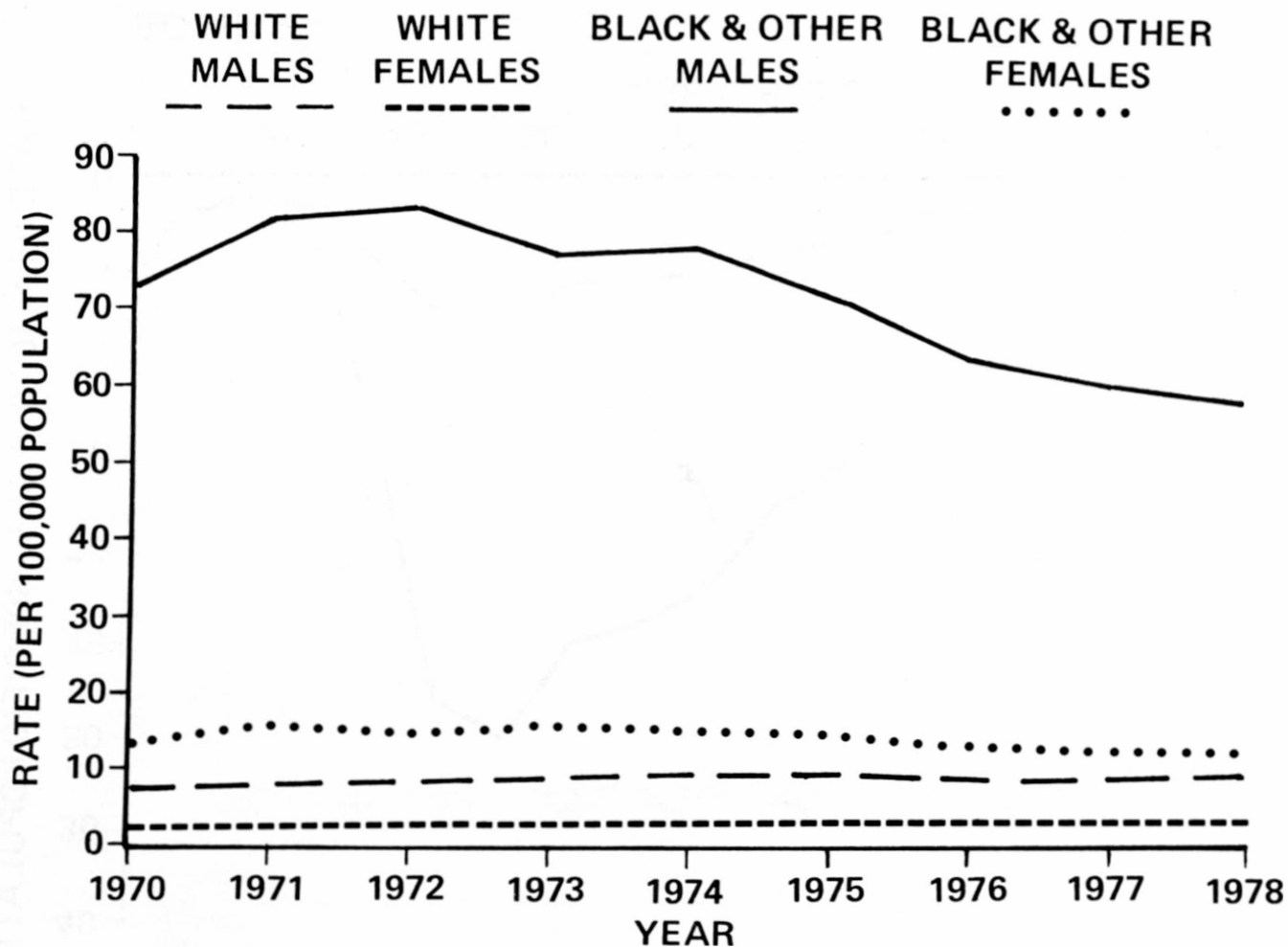


SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Source 4, 16.

Fig. 3. Age-adjusted homicide rates by race and sex of victim,
United States, 1970-78



SOURCES:

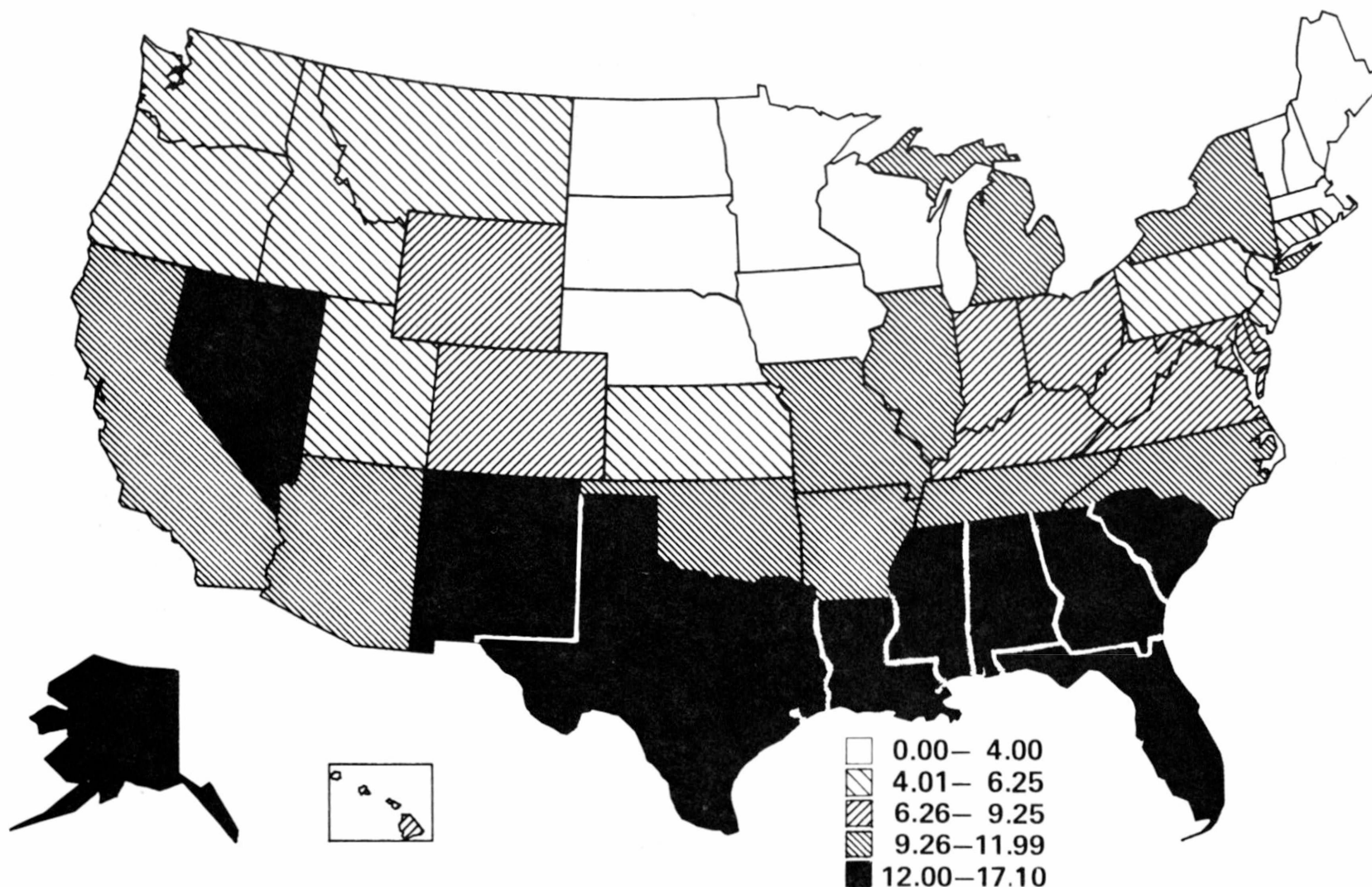
See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 7-14 (table 1-6).

Source 15 (table 11).

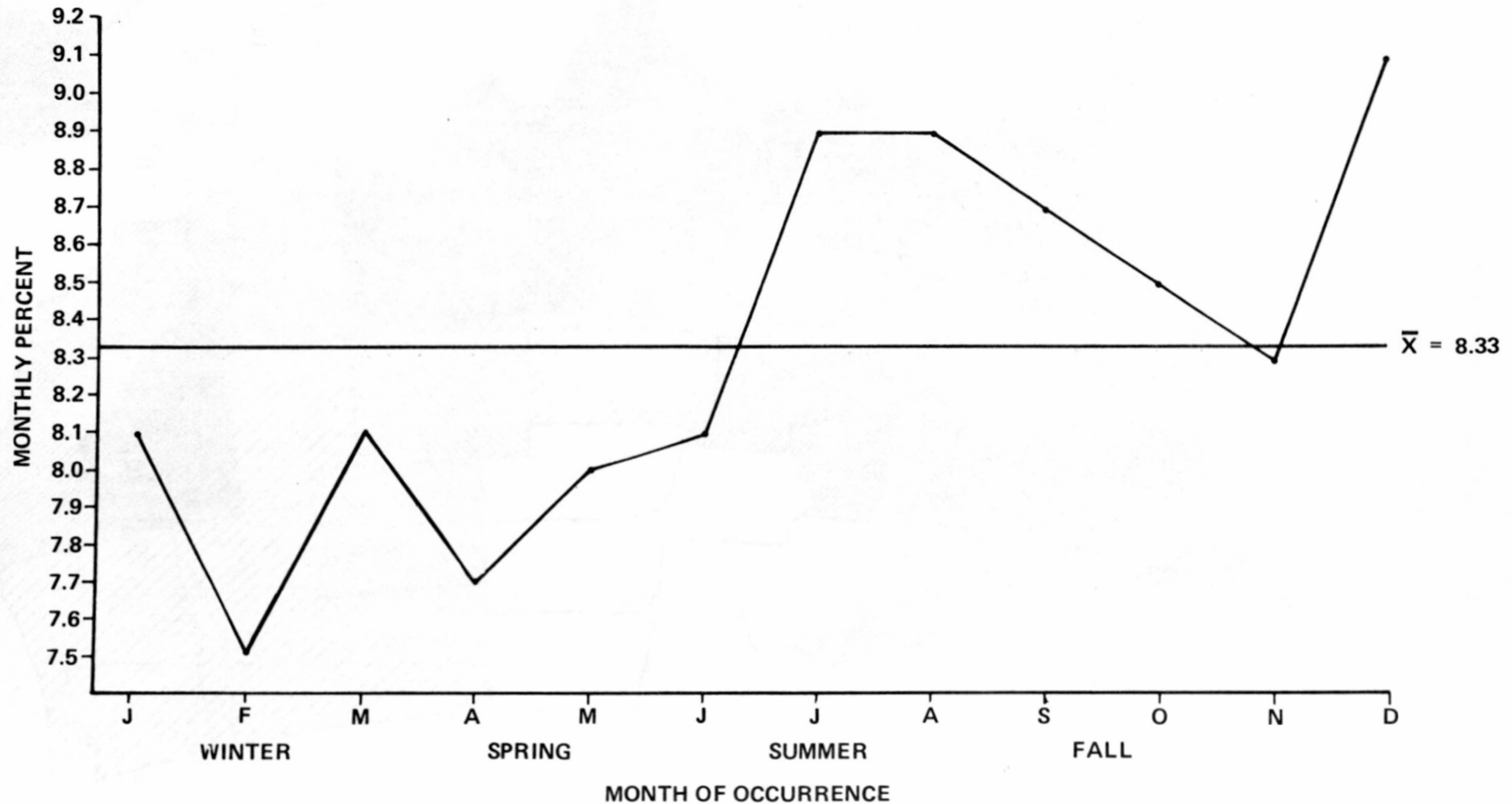
NOTE: Age-adjusted rates per 100,000 population computed by the direct method of standardization using the total population for 1940 as the standard population.

Fig. 4. Homicide rates by state of occurrence,
United States, 1978
(Rate per hundred thousand)



SOURCES:
See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.
Sources 1–3, 16.

Fig. 5. Percent of homicides by month of death, United States, 1970-78



SOURCES:

See p. 25 for a complete listing of sources.

Sources 7-14 (table 1-24).

Source 16.

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